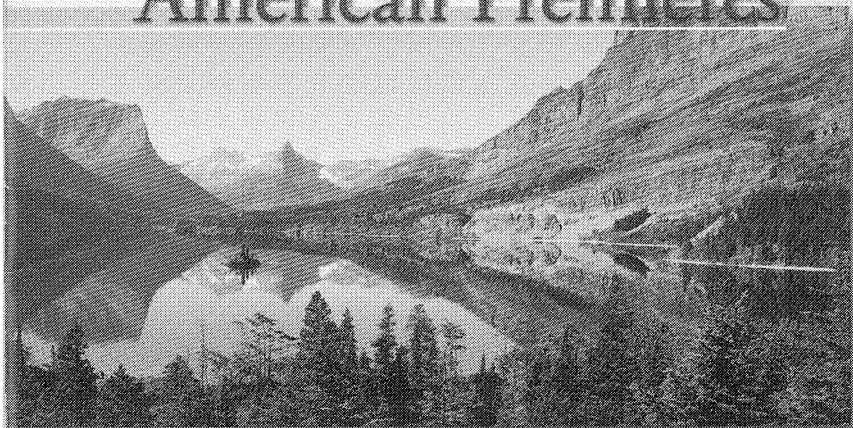


American Premieres

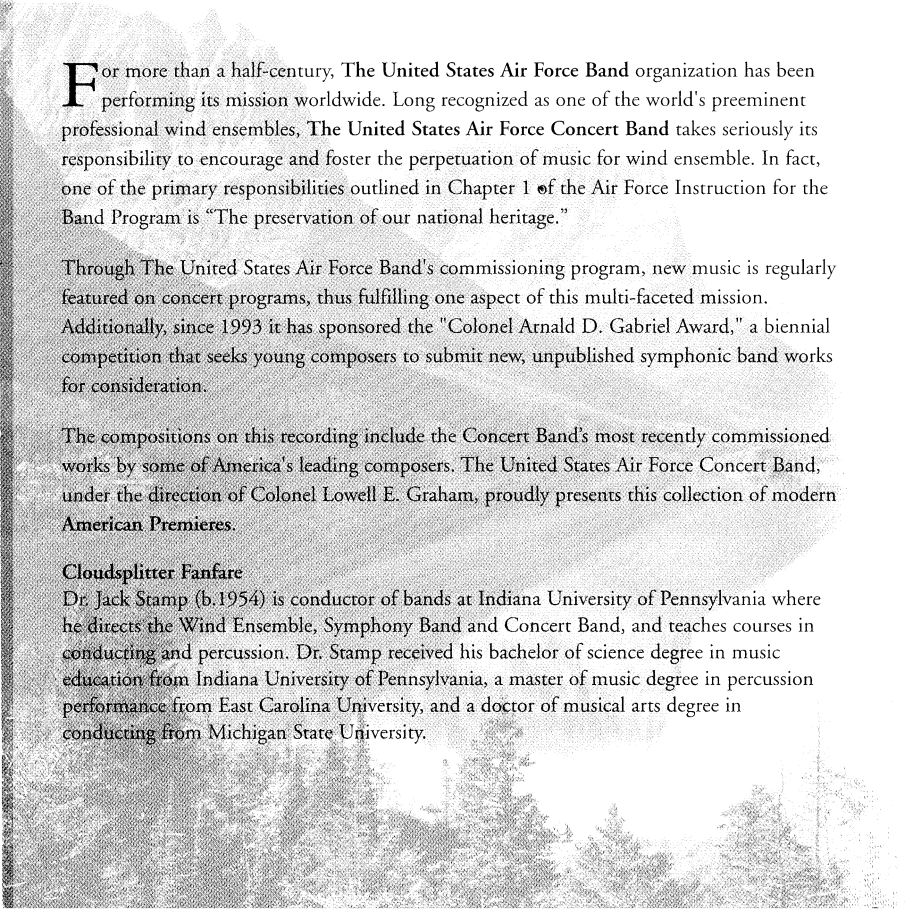


The United States Air Force Band



Washington, D.C.

Colonel Lowell E. Graham, Commander/Conductor



For more than a half-century, **The United States Air Force Band** organization has been performing its mission worldwide. Long recognized as one of the world's preeminent professional wind ensembles, **The United States Air Force Concert Band** takes seriously its responsibility to encourage and foster the perpetuation of music for wind ensemble. In fact, one of the primary responsibilities outlined in Chapter 1 of the Air Force Instruction for the Band Program is "The preservation of our national heritage."

Through The United States Air Force Band's commissioning program, new music is regularly featured on concert programs, thus fulfilling one aspect of this multi-faceted mission. Additionally, since 1993 it has sponsored the "Colonel Arnald D. Gabriel Award," a biennial competition that seeks young composers to submit new, unpublished symphonic band works for consideration.

The compositions on this recording include the Concert Band's most recently commissioned works by some of America's leading composers. The United States Air Force Concert Band, under the direction of Colonel Lowell E. Graham, proudly presents this collection of modern **American Premieres**.

Cloudsplitter Fanfare

Dr. Jack Stamp (b.1954) is conductor of bands at Indiana University of Pennsylvania where he directs the Wind Ensemble, Symphony Band and Concert Band, and teaches courses in conducting and percussion. Dr. Stamp received his bachelor of science degree in music education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a master of music degree in percussion performance from East Carolina University, and a doctor of musical arts degree in conducting from Michigan State University.

Prior to his appointment at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Stamp served as chairman of the division of fine arts at Campbell University in North Carolina. In addition to these posts, he served as conductor of the Duke University Symphony and was musical director of the Triangle British Brass Band, leading them to a national brass championship in 1989. Dr. Stamp's primary composition teachers have been Robert Washburn and Fisher Tull, though he was strongly influenced by his music theory teachers at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and East Carolina University. Recent studies include work with noted American composers David Diamond and Joan Tower, as well as Richard Danielpour.

About **Cloudsplitter Fanfare** the composer writes:

Cloudsplitter Fanfare was commissioned by Colonel Lowell E. Graham and The United States Air Force Band to open their concert at the 1999 WASBE [World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles] Conference in San Luis Obispo, California.

The work is dedicated to composer Richard Danielpour, with whom I studied briefly in 1997 and early 1998. In a compositional analysis, the work explores new ground for me including the use of octatonic pitch sets, the evolution of ostinati, and further exploration of dissonance.

However, in a programmatic sense, the work is exactly as the title describes. The fanfare is full of energy, power and purpose, much like a fighter jet surging through the clouds. I am always honored when Colonel Graham and The Air Force Band perform my music. To them, I am eternally grateful.

Cloudsplitter Fanfare received its world premiere in July 1999.

Into The Air!

Dr. Timothy Mahr (b.1956) is professor of music at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, where he is the conductor of the St. Olaf College Band. In addition, he teaches courses in composition, conducting and music education. He is also the conductor of the community based Minnesota Symphony Winds. Prior to his St. Olaf appointment, Dr. Mahr was director of bands at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. While there, he founded the Twin Ports Wind Ensemble.

Active as a guest conductor and clinician, Dr. Mahr is in demand across the nation and in Norway and Canada as a conductor of all-state and intercollegiate bands. He has also been in residence as guest composer/conductor on more than 25 college and university campuses. Dr. Mahr was the first recipient of a commission from the American Bandmasters Association (ABA) Commissioning Project; the resulting work, *Endurance*, was premiered by The United States Interservice Band March 7, 1992, at the 58th ABA annual convention held at the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Mahr holds two degrees, *summa cum laude*, from St. Olaf College. His master of arts degree in trombone performance and his doctor of musical arts degree in instrumental conducting are from the University of Iowa.

The composer has written the following:

Commissioned by The United States Air Force Band, the overture, "*Into The Air!*" was completed in September 1998. As I began working on this composition, I found myself often thinking about the unselfish courage exhibited by the members of the United States Air Force, as well as the absolute thrill it is to be able to fly. Hopefully this music embodies these noble qualities of character and experience.

Into The Air! received its world premiere in July 1999.

Monterey Holidays

Dr. Roger Nixon (b.1921) is professor emeritus at San Francisco State University. By the time he received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in 1952, he had studied music composition with four distinguished composers: Arthur Bliss, Ernest Bloch, Arnold Schoenberg and Roger Sessions. These studies were interrupted by nearly four years of active duty service as a line officer in the United States Navy, and were followed by a university teaching career that afforded him some discretionary time to compose music. Dr. Nixon has received some of the most prestigious awards in the music industry including the Phelan Award and the Oswald Band Composition Award. Many of his compositions are musical reflections of the world around him, including his widely acclaimed works for band, *Elegy and Fanfare March* and *Fiesta Del Pacifico*.

The composer graciously provided the following text to accompany his programmatic composition **Monterey Holidays**:

The Monterey Bay area, located in Northern California, is one of great scenic beauty, and there is a diversity of attractions for visitors, vacationers, artists, musicians, and nature-lovers, as well as for those interested in history.

The **Butterfly Parade** is held annually in celebration of the October return of thousands of monarch butterflies to their winter nesting area in the Monterey Pines located in the city of Pacific Grove on the Monterey Peninsula. The parade features several hundred elementary school students dressed in butterfly costumes escorted by bands, marching down Pine Street, in formation, to their waiting families. The event symbolizes the community's devotion to the well being of the butterflies (the city's motto is "Butterfly Town, U.S.A.") and the gaiety of the welcome is mitigated only by an awareness that fewer butterflies return each year.

The **Feast of Lanterns** is held each year for several days in Pacific Grove, and includes various gestures to the early history of the city, among which is an adaptation and re-enactment of an ancient romantic Chinese legend centered on the character of Topaz (beautiful daughter of a reigning Mandarin) who escapes (from her disapproving father) with her student-lover (a commoner) by embarking to sea in a rowboat. The sea claims them, but their spirits return to Pacific Grove each year as monarch butterflies.

The source of this legend appears to be the nearby Chinese fishing community in Monterey. Sometimes, on the final night of the Feast of Lanterns, up to 40 fishing craft, adorned with lanterns, anchor off Lover's Point in a colorful display of affection for the spirits of the lost princess and her lover.

Heritage Celebration. The city of Monterey is one of the oldest sites of Spanish civilization in California; to tour the city is to walk in the 'path of history' of the Pacific coast. Monterey was the first capital of California and is host to a schedule of festivals reminiscent of the Spanish and Mexican eras.

Monterey Holidays received its world premiere in July 1999.



Evolution

Dr. Dana Wilson (b.1946) earned his doctorate from the Eastman School of Music and is associate professor of composition at the Ithaca College School of Music in Ithaca, New York. His composition, *Piece of Mind*, won the Sousa Foundation's 1988 Sudler International Wind Band Competition and the 1988 American Bandmasters Association Ostwald Competition. His composition *Wind On The Steppes* was commissioned by the University of Florida for the premiere performance by the American Chamber Winds at the 1991 meeting of the WASBE held in Manchester, England. Wilson has been a Fellow of the Society for the Humanities at Cornell University, a Yaddo Fellow (Yaddo: the artists' retreat at Saratoga Springs, New York), a Charles A. Dana Research Fellow in Composition, a Meet The Composer Residency Fellow and is active as a composer, conductor, clinician and jazz pianist. **Evolution**, for large wind ensemble and narrator, was commissioned by and is dedicated to The United States Air Force Band and Colonel Lowell E. Graham.

The composition's form is unusual. Rather than being written as a series of progressive movements, the work is through-composed with the narrative text serving as segues. The overall composition imitates a live-concert format during which several performing groups occupy the stage and perform consecutively, creating a "collage" effect. The listener will be treated to a variety of musical styles and quotations presented chronologically, including excerpts from Bach, Sousa, Joplin and Cream.

In the score the composer writes: "The entire work--save the brief excerpts at the end--are based upon the plainsong *Veni, Creator, Spiritus*. It is with this attitude that we leave the old millennium and welcome the new." **Evolution** received its world premiere in November 1999 at the Virginia Music Educators Association Convention.

A Crown, A Mansion, and A Throne

Composer Luigi Zaninelli (b.1932) currently serves as professor of music and composer in-residence at the University of Southern Mississippi's College of the Arts School of Music in Hattiesburg, a position he has held since 1973. He also has served on the faculty of the prestigious Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, and composed film music for RCA Italiana. In addition, Zaninelli served as composer-in-residence at both the University of Calgary and the Banff School of Fine Arts.

Following high school, Mr. Zaninelli attended the Curtis Institute at the invitation of composer Gian-Carlo Menotti. At age 19, he was sent to Italy by the Curtis Institute to study with the legendary master Rosario Scalero, the teacher of Samuel Barber and Menotti. Among his numerous honors are a Steinway Prize, ASCAP Awards since 1964, and an Outstanding Achievement Award, Province of Alberta. In 1991, he became the first three-time winner of the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Music Award.

Chief Master Sergeant Daisy Jackson is the chief of marketing and media relations, as well as guest artist coordinator for The United States Air Force Band. Originally from Pensacola, Florida, her career in the Air Force began in 1982 as a soprano vocalist with the Singing Sergeants, the official chorus of the United States Air Force.

Chief Jackson is a graduate of the University of West Florida where she earned a bachelor of science degree in music education. In 1975, she completed a master of music degree in vocal performance from the Peabody Conservatory of Music under the tutelage of Madame Alice G. Duschak. Chief Jackson graduated from the world-renowned Curtis Institute in 1979. Todd Duncan, who was chosen by composer George Gershwin to create the role of Porgy in the American opera *Porgy and Bess*, was Chief Jackson's teacher during her studies at Curtis.

As a member of the Singing Sergeants, Chief Jackson has been heard throughout the United States and abroad as a featured soloist with The Air Force Concert Band and Symphony Orchestra. For more than 15 years, her stunning and powerful voice has been a hallmark of The United States Air Force Band in virtuosic performances before presidents, statesmen and military leaders from nearly every nation.

The story of **A Crown, A Mansion, and A Throne** begins in America's post-colonial period, and Zaninelli's composition came to life during the bicentennial of the death of George Washington. As part of the celebration of this significant historical event, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association for the Union (an organization founded in 1853 to purchase and preserve Mount Vernon as a national shrine) commissioned Zaninelli to compose a new work commemorating Washington's death.

The composer embarked upon a search for inspirational words to set to music, and discovered in George Washington's letters a missive from one Phillis Wheatley. Wheatley, an African, arrived in America at the age of seven, having been kidnapped from her home and sold into slavery in Boston. The odyssey of Phillis Wheatley's short but extremely influential life gave the United States its first black writer of consequence. Ms. Wheatley was taught to read and write by her American "family," became multilingual, and was eventually granted her freedom.

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association was thrilled by the prospect of championing the great woman's words; upon hearing about the commission, Colonel Graham asked to see the score. He was so taken with the work that The United States Air Force Band became involved, resulting in an extension of the commission to include an arrangement for soprano and concert band.

Phillis Wheatley's words, written in 1775, serve as the text to this composition:

Sir, I have taken the freedom to address your Excellency in the enclosed poem, and entreat your acceptance, though I am not insensible of its inaccuracies. Your being appointed by the Grand Continental Congress to be Generalissimo of the Armies of North America, together with the fame of your virtues, excite sensations not easy to suppress. Your generosity, therefore, I presume, will pardon the attempt.

Wishing your Excellency all possible success in the great cause you are so generously engaged in, I am, your Excellency's most obedient and humble servant, Phillis Wheatley.

Celestial choir enthroned in realms of light, Columbia's scenes of glorious toil I write, while freedoms cause her anxious breast alarms. She flashes dreadful, in refulgent arms.

See mother earth her offspring's fate bemoan, and nations gaze at scenes before unknown. See the bright beams of heaven revolving light involved in sorrow and the veil of night.

The goddess comes. She moves divinely fair. Olive and laurel bind her golden hair. Wherever shines this native of the skies, unnumber'd charms and recent graces rise.

Muse, bow propitious while my pen relates how pour her armies through a thousand gates, as when Eolus heaven's face deforms, enwrapp'd in tempest and a night of storms.

Astonished ocean feels the wild uproar. The reflux surges beat the sounding shore. Or as thick as leaves in Autumn's golden reign, such and so many moves the warrior's train.

In bright array they seek the work of war, where high unfurl'd the ensign waves in air. Shall I to Washington their praise recite? Enough thou knowest them in the fields of fight.

Thee first in place and honours, we demand the grace and glory of the martial band. Fam'd for thy valour, for thy virtues more, hear every tongue thy guardian aid implore.

One century scarce perform'd its destined round, when Gallic power Columbia's fury found. And so may you who ever does disgrace the land of freedom's heaven defended race.

Fixed are the eyes of nations on the scales. For in their hopes Columbia's arm prevails. Anon, Britannia droops the pensive head, while 'round increase the rising hills of dead.

Ah, cruel blindness to Columbia's state, lament thy thirst of boundless power too late. Proceed, great chief, with virtue on thy side. Thy every action let the Goddess guide.

A crown, a mansion, a throne that shine with gold unfading be thine. A crown, a mansion, and a throne that shine with gold unfading, Washington, be thine, be thine, be thine.

The concert band arrangement of **A Crown, A Mansion, and A Throne** received its world premiere by The United States Air Force Concert Band in February 1999 in Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall, with the composer in attendance.

Divertimento for Band

Ira Hearshen (b.1948) is one of the most sought-after orchestrators in Hollywood. A graduate of Wayne State University (Michigan), Hearshen also studied orchestration at the Grove School of Music in Los Angeles. His principal teachers include film composers Albert Harris and Allyn Ferguson. His 25-year career has afforded him the opportunity to collaborate with other notable Hollywood giants: Hearshen served as Lalo Shifrin's principal orchestrator for the film *Rush Hour*, and he teamed up with Randy Newman in Disney's blockbuster animated film, *A Bug's Life*. Mr. Hearshen was the principal arranger for the NBC mini-series "Atomic Train," and currently serves as the principal arranger for the Miss America Pageant.

Mr. Hearshen certainly has done his part to perpetuate the American musical tradition for concert bands. Inspired by the composers that preceded him, Hearshen has produced works that illustrate the evolution of America's musical style. Hearshen's inspiration can be traced to the earliest masters—from John Philip Sousa and Scott Joplin to the pioneers of Broadway.

Using American composer Vincent Persichetti's "Divertimento for Band, Opus 42" as a model, Hearshen employed traditional American compositional and harmonic devices in his five-movement *Divertimento for Band*—but he did so with a twist: be-bop harmony pervades the "Ragtime" and "Blues" movements. The third movement, "Mambo Loco," is based on a rhythmic structure designed to make the concert band swing, in the manner of Leonard Bernstein. "Susan's Song" is named for and dedicated to Ira's wife, and the final movement, the "March of the Little People" exploits the universally recognized (minor third) interval used by children all over the world: the "Naa-Naa" interval. *Divertimento for Band* was first performed by The United States Air Force Concert Band in April 1998.

All works released by permission of the composers.

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE CONCERT BAND

Colonel Lowell E. Graham – *Greeley, CO* – Commander/Conductor

Chief Master Sergeant James H. Moseley II – *Beaumont, TX* – Manager

Piccolo

MSgt Ardyth Corliss Scott–*Shreveport, LA*

Flute

TSgt Sharon Nokes*–*Philadelphia, PA*

TSgt Stacy Newbrough–*Iowa City, IA*

SMSgt Wayne Hendrick*–*Wytheville, VA*

Oboe

TSgt Erin Gittelsohn*–*Long Island, NY*

CMSgt David James–*Hampton, VA*

CMSgt James Moseley–*Beaumont, TX*

English Horn

CMSgt James Moseley–*Beaumont, TX*

E-Flat Clarinet

MSgt Jan Brooks Siegfried–*Valparaiso, IN*

B-Flat Clarinet

TSgt George Stoffan*–*Stratford, CT*

TSgt Dawn Henry–*Quarryville, PA*

MSgt David Aspinwall–*Atlanta, GA*

MSgt Elizabeth Campeau–*Pinckney, MI*

MSgt Sandra Cox–*Columbia, SC*

MSgt Carl Long–*Hanover, NH*

MSgt Richard Drew–*Joliet, IL*

TSgt Bryan Guidry–*Bedford, TX*

MSgt Lawrence Haddad–*Poughkeepsie, NY*

TSgt Shawn Buck–*Brookside, PA*

SMSgt Robert Little–*Houston, TX*

Bass Clarinet

TSgt Jeffrey Snavey–*Milwaukee, WI*

Contra-Alto Clarinet

TSgt Brian McCurdy–*Winchester, VA*

Bassoon

CMSgt Danny Phipps*–*Annapolis, MD*

TSgt Larry Burke–*Redondo Beach, CA*

SMSgt Joe Tersero–*Killeen, TX*

Contra-Bassoon

SMSgt Joe Tersero–*Killeen, TX*

Soprano/Alto Saxophone

MSgt William Marr*–*Alexandria, VA*

Alto Saxophone

TSgt Jeremy Koch–*Chicago, IL*

Tenor Saxophone

TSgt Jake McCray–*Fairfax, VA*

Baritone Saxophone

MSgt Mary Beth George–*Buffalo, NY*

French Horn

TSgt Kathleen Monroe*—*Columbus, OH*

TSgt Kent Wyatt—*Arlington, TX*

MSgt Deborah Stephenson—*Dallas, TX*

TSgt Philip Krzywicki—*Philadelphia, PA*

TSgt Leslie Mincer Robillard—

Charlottesville, VA

TSgt Michael Himes—*Orlando, FL*

Cornet

MSgt Andrew Wilson*—*Gambier, OH*

MSgt James Bittner—*Harrisburg, PA*

TSgt Michael Bosch—*Bethlehem, PA*

MSgt William Adcock—*San Jose, CA*

TSgt Curt Christensen—*Mt. Clemens, MI*

MSgt Clarence Mitchell—*Portsmouth, VA*

Trumpet

MSgt Robert McConnell—*Wadsworth, OH*

TSgt Kenneth Oedemann—*Southampton, PA*

Trombone

CMSgt Mark Williams*—*Okemos, MI*

MSgt Jeffrey Gaylord—*Western Springs, IL*

TSgt James VanZandt—*Austin, TX*

SMSgt Lindsey Smith—*Williamston, MI*

Bass Trombone

SMSgt Chris Matten—*Catasauqua, PA*

Euphonium

TSgt William Jones*—*Stormville, NY*

TSgt Joseph Bello—*Naperville, IL*

Tuba

TSgt Christopher Quade*—*Burke, VA*

SMSgt Jan Duga—*Columbus, OH*

SMSgt William Porter—*Alcoa, TN*

Cello

MSgt Christopher Moehlenkamp*—

Lynchburg, VA

TSgt Joan Hovda—*Decorah, IA*

String Bass

SMSgt Frank Pappajohn—*Morgantown, WV*

Timpani

SMSgt Patrick Shrieves—*Freehold, NJ*

Percussion

MSgt Aubrey Adams*—*Medford, OK*

SMSgt Mark Carson—*East Fulton, OH*

TSgt Erica Kadison—*Louisville, KY*

MSgt Randy Jennings—*North Merrick, NY*

TSgt Marc Dinitz—*Rockville, MD*

Harp

MU1C Emily Makela§—*Denton, TX*

* Principal

° Concertmaster

* Member, USAF Heritage of America Band,
Langley AFB, VA

§ Member, United States Navy Band,
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American Premieres

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Monterey Holidays Roger Nixon

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4| Feast of Lanterns (3:35)

5| Heritage Celebration (4:14)

6| Evolution (16:53) Dana Wilson

MSgt Elizabeth Campeau, narrator

7| A Crown, A Mansion, and A Throne

Luigi Zaninelli

Text by Phillis Wheatley

CMSgt Daisy Jackson, soprano

Divertimento for Band Ira Hearshen

8| Ragtime (2:42)

9| Blues (2:27)

10| Mambo Loco (3:02)

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